

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06290 240535Z
ACTION NEA-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6290

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (WEIZMAN, EZER), IS
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. DURING A DISCUSSION AUGUST 22 WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HE BROUGHT UP HIS PROPOSED NOVEMBER 30 CALL ON SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN.
2. WEIZMAN SAID THE MINISTRY IS CURRENTLY PREPARING LIST OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AND THAT THIS LIST AND DETAILED BACK-UP INFORMATION WOULD BE PROVIDED TO DOD IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. A SERIOUS REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT PRIORITIES IS NOW UNDERWAY HERE, FOR PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON. MOD DIRECTOR GENERAL ZUSSMAN WILL BE GOING TO THE U.S. IN SEPTEMBER WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FIRING UP AGENDA WITH CIECHANOVER AND WITH ISRAELI EMBASSY. WE BELIEVE CIECHANOVER WILL BE THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENTING AGENDA TO THE DOD WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE MINISTER'S VISIT.
3. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY BROWN, WEIZMAN WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT AN F-15 UNIT, THE F-16 PRODUCTION FACILITY AND A U.S. ARMY UNIT EQUIPPED WITH ATTACK HELICOPTERS. WE RECOMMEND FORT HOOD BE

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CONSIDERED FOR THE LATTER VISIT SO THAT HE CAN HAVE A LOOK AT THE HELICOPTER UNITS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMBINED ARMS TEAM AS OPPOSED MERELY TO VISITING A PLANT OR A DEMONSTRATION RANGE.

4. THE MINISTER WILL ALSO BE REQUESTING A CALL ON SECRETARY VANCE. AT THIS MEETING HE INTENDS TO PRESENT

THE CASE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF KFIR PRODUCTION
SIMILAR TO THAT GRANTED FOR THE CHARIOT TANK. HE WILL
BASE HIS REQUEST UPON THE REQUIREMENT TO START PHASING
OUT THE OLDER MODELS OF THE CURRENT A-4 SKYHAWK FLEET
AND AS A PARTIAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING
A VIABLE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY IN ISRAEL.

5. COMMENT: WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO CONCERNING
WEIZMAN'S VISIT AS TIME APPROACHES. GIVEN THE INCREASING
ROLE OF THIS EMBASSY IN EVALUATING ISRAELI REQUESTS
AND NEEDS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT, I RECOMMEND THAT
EITHER THE DEFENSE/AIR OR ARMY ATTACHE BE IN WASHINGTON
AT SAME TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AS EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVE. HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL CONCUR AND ASSIST IN
OBTAINING DOD CONCURRENCE, FUNDING, ETC. LEWIS

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